

Fortovase distribution to be discontinued

Roche Pharmaceuticals, of Nutley, New Jersey, has issued a Dear Health Care Provider letter to inform the clinical community that commercial distribution of Fortovase, the 200-mg soft-gel formulation of saquinavir, will be discontinued by February 15, 2006.

The letter cites decreased demand for Fortovase as the reason for the product's discontinuation.

Invirase, another formulation of saquinavir manufactured by Roche Pharmaceuticals, will continue to be available in 200-mg and 500-mg formulations.

Roche suggests that physicians refrain from starting Fortovase treatment in their HIV-positive Patients at this time, and encourages prescribing health care providers to discuss appropriate alternative treatment regimens with patients currently receiving Fortovase.

The complete Dear Health Care Provider letter is available at
<http://www.invirase.com/pdf/FTVDearDoctorFINAL.pdf>

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An archive of past list serve announcements is available on the FDA web site at
<http://www.fda.gov/oashi/aids/listserve/archive.html>